

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228087
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:AKRAUSE:EM
APPROVED BY EUR:WLUERS
S/MS:CKAMMAN
H:TWESTON
EUR/SOV:SMCCALL
S/S-O:TREYNDERS

-----030155 082105Z /62

P 081838Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228087

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, UR, US

SUBJECT: CODEL RIBICOFF/BELLMON - INITIAL PLANNING

REFS: A) MOSCOW 21063; B) MOSCOW 21130

1. CODEL HAS DECIDED IN LIGHT OF EMBASSY AND SUPREME SOVIET SUGGESTIONS TO OMIT TBILISI AND SPEND FULL DAY IN TASHKENT (OPTION 11B, REF A). MOSCOW DEPARTURE COULD THEN BE IN LATE MORNING NOVEMBER 15, WITH LUNCH ON AIRPLANE AND DINNER AT TASHKENT HOTEL. NOVEMBER 16 WOULD BE TASHKENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING MEETING WITH FIRST SECRETARY RASHIDOV AND DINNER HOSTED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS. ON NOVEMBER 17, MOST OR ALL OF CODEL WOULD SPEND DAY IN SAMARKAND. GROUP WOULD FLY FROM TASHKENT TO KIEV ON NOVEMBER 18, LEAVING AT
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PAGE 02 STATE 228087

9:00 A.M. (STANDARD DEPARTURE TIME).

2. CODEL RESPONSES TO EMBASSY QUESTIONS REF A ARE AS FOLLOWS: PARA 2(A): CODEL ANTICIPATES THAT MOST WIVES WILL WISH TO ATTEND OPENING SESSION OF KREMLIN TALKS AND SEVERAL MAY STAY FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. NONETHELESS, APPRECIATE AND ACCEPT EMBASSY/SUPREME SOVIET STAFFERS'

OFFER OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR WIVES DURING SECOND AND LATER ROUNDS OF TALKS. IN ADDITION TO SHOPPING AND SIGHT-SEEING, SOME MAY BE INTERESTED IN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS OR EDUCATORS -- PLEASE DEVELOP THIS AS AN OPTION. WE EXPECT TO HAVE ADDITIONAL REQUESTS AT A LATER DATE FOR SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR WIVES.

PARA 2(B): CODEL WILL LAY WREATH AND ACCEPTS COST.

PARA 2(C): AIR FORCE WILL MAKE HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CREW THROUGH DEFENSE ATTACHE.

PARA 5: CODEL LEADERS ARE GRATEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR'S OFFER TO STAY AT SPASO HOUSE, BUT BELIEVE THEY SHOULD STAY WITH DELEGATION AT HOTEL.

PARA 6: CODEL IS PLEASED WITH AMBASSADOR AND MRS. TOON'S OFFER TO ACCOMPANY THROUGHOUT USSR. LANGUAGE OFFICERS ARE ALSO WELCOME.

PARA 7: POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET ACCOMPANYING AIRCRAFT AND EXCHANGE OF PASSENGERS SEEMS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CODEL AND WIVES AND STAFF TO VISIT INFORMALLY WITH SOVIET HOSTS. IT WOULD ALSO EASE SPACE PROBLEM ON CODEL AIRCRAFT. CODEL HOPES THIS WILL MATERIALIZE AND THAT THERE WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 228087

MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY ON SEATING TO ALLOW NATURAL AND FREE INTERACTION.

PARA 8: CODEL ACCEPTS ALL ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS THIS PARAGRAPH. THERE IS INTEREST IN MOSCOW CIRCUS AND WE WILL SEE IF ANY MEMBERS WISH TO VISIT ZAGORSK. MEANWHILE, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR MOSCOW ACTIVITIES AND SIGHTSEEING. CODEL HOPES THAT BALLET WILL BE OFFERED AT LEAST ONE EVENING.

3. LENINGRAD PROGRAM LOOKS EXCELLENT. SOME MEMBERS OF DELEGATION WILL LIKELY WISH TO MEET WITH SOVIETS AND AMERICAN STUDENTS--WILL ADVISE LATER CONCERNING NUMBER AND TIME. CODEL WOULD LIKE TO LAY FLOWERS AT MEMORIAL EN ROUTE INTO CITY FROM AIRPORT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE228087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AKRAUSE:EM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780367-0017
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780987/aaaactub.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56291054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 21063, 78 MOSCOW 21130
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1499428
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL RIBICOFF/BELLMON - INITIAL PLANNING
TAGS: OREP, UR, US, (RIBICOFF, ABRAHAM), (BELLMON, HENRY)
To: MOSCOW LENINGRAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56291054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014